

Kunsan band jams for fun, good causes

By Staff Sgt. Heather Shelton
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

According to Webster's dictionary the word bitter traditionally describes a taste. Here at Kunsan "Bitter" is the name of a hard rock band whose goal is to rock the walls off of local hooches and keep their fans' heads bobbin'.

"Our band is unique because we play all of our own music," said Senior Airman Matt Loomis, 8th Mission Support Squadron. "Anyone can get up on stage and play someone else's material, but it's four times more challenging to write your own and 10 times more rewarding."

According to drummer Staff Sgt. Darryl Meehan, 8th Maintenance Squadron, there is a risk factor involved with playing original music.

"You are never sure what the reaction will be," said Meehan. "It's that anticipation I enjoy the most."

Staff Sgt. Alan Carlson, 8th Medical Operations Squadron, and Loomis originally formed the band during Memorial



Photos by Airman 1st Class Brian Hill

The band takes a break after a practice session at the Falcon Community Center here Wednesday. "Bitter" will perform at the Loring Club tonight at 8 p.m.

Day weekend. Senior Airman Matt Jordan, 8th Supply Squadron, and Meehan joined the band about a month later. According to Loomis the band decided on the name "Bitter" because they wanted something serious, but also

"I have written the majority of the material, but that is all," said Carlson, a 14-year Air Force veteran. "The band forms it and nurtures it—we all add our own special influences and it always seems to come out great."

According to Jordan, a Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada native, the bass guitar is the coolest instrument ever invented.

"My goal is to be the best bass guitar player I can," said Jordan. "Unfortunately Matt (Loomis) is leaving soon. I hope that Alan, Darryl and myself will continue to improve our sound and keep the Wolf Pack entertained."

The local band, who only asks for funds to help with equipment rental and free drinks, seems to get plenty of support from members of the Wolf Pack.

"Everyone that has come out to see us has said that we completely rock," expressed Carlson. "Most have asked us if we plan to put out a CD, the others just want to know when we are playing next."

According to "Bitter" fan Staff Sgt. Erin Covert, 8th Medical Operations Squadron, one of the best things about the band is that all their music is original.

"What can I say, the band is awesome," said Covert. "More power to them for going out on a limb and doing things their way—not following the crowd of cover bands."



Bass: Senior Airman Matt Jordan, 8th Supply Squadron fuels distribution operator.

Even little ones are getting the music bug.

"I bought my 3-year-old son, Kito Rei, a drum set before I came here and he's learning how to play them," said Meehan. "I am pretty excited about it. My wife, Mayumi, on the other hand is not so sure."

Those interested in hearing just what the band is all about will have the opportunity tonight at 8 p.m. in the Loring Club enlisted lounge. The band, which tries to encourage audience members to support local functions, is playing to raise money for the Air Force Aid Society. For more information, call 782-4312.



Lead guitar: Senior Airman Matt Loomis, 8th Mission Support Squadron base training manager.



Drummer: Staff Sgt. Darryl Meehan, 8th Maintenance Squadron NCOIC of document control.

something that showed a little hostility.

"Our music is different," said Loomis, who has been playing guitar for 14 years. "The rhythms are a modern, heavy, choppy style like a modern metal band, but Alan sings them clean like an alternative band. Unlike most modern metal bands, we do not use any elaborate electronics to alter our sound."

According to the band members, their music is full of diverse sounds.

"I add my guitar solos that are like something you'd hear in an 80's hair-band," said Loomis, lead guitar player. "Darryl, the drummer, adds a lot of weird but cool bluesy fill-in beats and Jordan, the bass player, adds his own kind of 'classic rock' smoothness to the sound. All around, we work well together."

Even the lyrics combine the styles of all the members.



Staff Sgt. Alan Carlson, 8th Medical Operations Squadron NCOIC of flight medicine.